Decline in calorie intake consumption of foodgrains

3188. SHR1 S.K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government are aware that in absolute term, the per capita availability of foodgrains in 2002-03 is lower than during the years of the second World War which saw the Savage Bengal Famine;

(b)whether Government are aware that this resulted in a sharp decline in the average total calories intake both in Urban and Rural India; and

(c)if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The per capita net availability of foodgrains has increased from 394.9 gms. per day in 1951 to 491.2 (provisional) gms. per day in 2002. Data on per capita net availability of foodgrains are being compiled from 1951 onwards.

Agricultural research

†3189. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that our country has the largest agriculture research infrastructure in the world, where research work is being undertaken;

(b)if so, the number of scientists, research fellows and their assistants, administrative officials and other employees working under it as on March, 2003; and

(c)year-wise varieties of wheat, rice, sugarcane, oilseeds, pulses and cotton discovered by them during the last three years alongwith the estimates regarding the production cost and the production rate of these new varieties and how it compares with the current production cost and production rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Our country has one of the largest agriculture research system in the world.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The staff position are as under:

Scientific Cadre:	4796
Administrative/Finance Cadre:	5161
Other Cadres:	19040

(c) The year-wise number of varieties of wheat, rice, sugarcane, oilseeds, pulses and cotton developed and released during the last three years is annexed. The yield production rate of new varieties ranges from 15-25% higher than the current varieties. The cost of production with use of new varieties may not always be higher than the current varieties but in some cases a slight higher cost of production is expected because of higher cost of new seed. However, a little increase in the cost of new seed would be negligible compared to the increase in the production rate ranging from 15-25%.

Statement

Number of varieties developed during the last three years

SI.No.	Crop	2001	2002	2003
1.	Wheat	2	4	7
2.	Rice	9	2	2
3.	Sugarcane	5	Nil	Nil
4.	Oilseeds	9	7	12
5.	Pulses	7	3	7
6.	Cotton	2	Nil	2

Increasing area for agricultural land

†3190. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented any scheme for increasing the area for agricultural land in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.